

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Approximate position matching processing is firstly performed with respect to entire areas of two images of a single same object. Selection is then made to find local area limited regions, between which a degree of shift is high, in the two images, whose positions have been approximately matched with each other by the approximate position matching processing. Position re-matching processing is then performed with respect to at least the local area limited regions, which have thus been selected. The approximate position matching processing may be global position matching processing, local position matching processing, or a combination of the global position matching processing and the local position matching processing.